Communal violence in Orissa

165. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Christian families in Orissa are badly hit by the recent outbreak of communal violence and hiding in the nearby jungles and hills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted a spot assessment of violence against Christians; and

(d) if so, the details of the assessment reports and immediate action Government has taken to prevent such communal violence in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The State Government has reported that about 40 Christian families of Barakhama and Baliguda area and about 400 people from Kattingia and Tiarigram, who earlier fled from their homes during the recent communal violence, have since returned to their villages.s

(c) and (d) "Public Order" and "Police" being State subjects as per the Constitution of India, the State Governments are primarily responsible for maintenance of law and order. The Government of Orissa has ordered a judicial probe headed by Hon'ble Justice Sri Basudev Panigrahi, Retired Judge of Orissa High Court to inquire into the incidents.

The Union Government has assisted the Government of Orissa to prevent and control the communal violence by sending advisories on 24.12.2007, 25.12.2007 and 15.2.2008. On the specific request of the State Government, seven companies of CRPF and RAF were provided. Further, the Union Home Minister visited some of the affected areas of the State on 2.1.2008.

The State Government effected changes in the administrative set up, employed confidence building measures including camping of senior officers at site, deployment of police and central forces for patrolling, setting up of several Peace Committees, aresting accused persons, announcing relief and rehabilitation measures for the victims, etc. The Chief Minister of Orissa also toured the affected areas.

Major penalties against officers of Prasar Bharti

166. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has proposed major penalties in 2006 against former CEO, DDGs and other officers of Prasar Bharti;

(b) if so, details in this regard and action taken on the recommendations of CVC;

(c) whether it is a fact that the above officers with doubtful integrity and corruption charges are allowed to function on plum posts; and

(d) if so, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. The CVC had proposed major penalties against 10 officers of

Prasar Bharti including the then Chief Executive Officer, 2 Deputy Director General rank officers, 6 Director rank officers and 1 Deputy Director rank officer.

(b) to (d) Charge Sheets for major penalty have been issued to 4 of the above officers, while 2 cases have been closed in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission. Proposal to initiate Regular Departmental Action against 2 officers has been forwarded to the concerned Disciplinary Authority i.e. Department of Personnel & Training while action in respect of 2 officers is under examination in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission and Directorate General, Doordarshan.

At present, none of the officers of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is on sensitive assignment. Others on deputation have been repatriated to their parent cadres while the rest have retired.

Objections to Film Jodhaa Akbar

167. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether members of Rajput families have taken objections to the film "Jodhaa Akbar";

(b) if so, whether any complaint has been received by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting or the Film Censor Board; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) A representation through Ministry of Human Resource Development was received from Maharashtra Rajput Kshatriya Sangh, Nanded. this representation stated that history has been distorted in the film. It said that no Rajput female could have married a foreigner/an enemy of Indian nation. Thus, Jodhaa/Rajput princess marrying Akbar is a figment of imagination. It is also alleged that the film is an attempt to disgrace the Rajput community. It warns that if either Akbar or Jodhaa's name is associated with the Rajput community then it would create a situation leading to a terrible rift between Rajput and Muslim communities and no Government of the country would be able to bridge the divide.

Separate Division under Registrar of Newspapers

168. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two separate Division under the Registrar of Newspapers, are being planned with a view to reducing administrative and procedural delays in terms of registration, ministerial approvals and other legal formalities;

(b) if so, when it is likely to take place;

(c) whether the said bifurcation will be on territorial or on functional basis; and

(d) whether Government will locate one of these two Divisions in Nagpur which is a central place in India?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Two Regional Offices under the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) in